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SPEECH OF HENRY CLAY.

Reported for the New York Tribune.

Mr. CLAY, on rising, was greeted with **ROARS** after round of applause. After this manifestation of regard and enthusiasm, he proceeded as follows:

Gentlemen of the Colonization Society.

I have been committed to say a few words. Rather against my wishes, and unexpected, to myself, I have been addressed in the newspapers, I believe, to make some address on this subject. I have no reproaches to make against those who have so kindly invited me. I must present myself before you in no condition to fulfil the expectations that may have brought this large and respectable assemblage together. I am unable to prepare to do justice to this great subject or to hold forth in this position. On a journey of considerable length and arduousness performed in mid-winter, and surrounded everywhere where I have stopped, by through colds and rheumatism, I have not leisure what ever for that preparation which you must expect to be made before a man presents himself to address so respectable and intelligent an audience as this. I come before you without a solution of the great and vital political preparation of any sort; absolutely without preparation for an elaborate address. I will therefore advise all who have come here with the expectation of hearing anything extraordinary. I have no doubt that I have not terminated my doubtsless leave it with much fewer auditors than at first assembled. (Cheers.) Yet I confess myself gratified with the opportunity of saying a few words, as well as with the circumstance of having been invited to do so. On the evening, of my having met here in company with others thirty years ago for the foundation of this Society. It has been some four years since I have had the honor of standing or sitting in this place which I have not hesitated to say will allow me to say that, in all human probability, it will be the last instance in which I may ever appear before you.

Some of you have heard of Rev. Dr. Finney, of N. J., and others with him, met here and consulted and agreed upon the great principles of the foundation of this Society. I was one of that number. At first we considered the subject of settling a Colony on the Coast of Africa, to which the free people of color in the United States might voluntarily, and with their own free consent without the least restraint, coercion or compulsion, be sent, and where they might enjoy all the civil and political privileges which, under the circumstances of the case, they could not enjoy here. We submitted the whole to their unconstrained volition. It was very far from the consideration of whether it was expedient, or, on any occasion, to interfere with the title to slaves; we did not wish to affect that title in the least degree whatever. We saw, what you now manifestly see, the country, that the people of color would be sent to, was not to be held together on terms of equality. We did not stop to inquire whether the state of things was right or wrong. We took the fact of impossibility of doing otherwise, and sought to open up a new field of action, and proceeded to open up that field in the knowledge that many respectable individuals in the country who contended that it is all prejudices, and should be expelled from the country, and that the people of color are all members of the same race, entitled to the same privileges and immunities with ourselves. This principle, in their view, may be right. But we went on the fact that the two races were not to be held together on terms of equality. We pressed, in view of their religious, moral and political degradation, that they should be removed by their own consent, from the United States to a country of institutions and privileges where they would be able to enjoy the same as we enjoy in this country. I repeat, that we did not attempt in the least to unsettle the title to slaves. We hoped merely to demonstrate the practicability of Colonization, in order that the people of color might be able to avail themselves of the policy or not, according to their views or wishes. Our object was nothing farther than to demonstrate before the world the practicability of establishing Colonization.

Well, as it has been stated, throughout the whole progress of our society from its origin it has been surrounded by difficulties, and besieged by enemies in front and in rear, and on both sides. It has been assailed by those who have called it, as well as those of the opposite extreme. Both have united in assailing it, but on what grounds, I cannot very well understand. It is no more a part of the progress of abolition, than it is a part of the progress of slavery, than it is the subject to interfere with the progress of abolition. We contemplated simply the improvement of the condition of the blacks, and so, when the object of the abolitionist should be to remove the blacks from the country, it would become the object and employment of this society to colonize them, and thus co-operating together, the best benefit might accrue to the human race, which might consist in either the removal of the blacks, or in their improvement. But why should they continue to attack us? I repeat, we do not interfere with them, utopian and impracticable as we suppose their project to be. Their attempt is to emancipate without the removal of the blacks, and to place the blacks in the United States. Very well, to be clear in this very object in another way colonization was begun. We say to these gentlemen, we cannot hope to accomplish your object, as you cannot hope to accomplish your object, come upon an equality in social and political condition with the whites, we will carry them where they can better enjoy the immunities of freedom.

I admit it has been said that this Society is increasing in numbers, and that it is doing good. I admit that its founders have not supposed that without the aid of Government, State or National, they could found in Africa a very large colony composed wholly of free persons of color, and that they could do so, and that the practicality of the object—the power of Colonization, in competent hands, to carry out the work in all its great results—to demonstrate this power throughout the whole extent of the continent, and to show to the world that it could have been able to demonstrate the practicality of Colonization, who can doubt the competency of Government to transport the shores of Africa all persons of color to the continent, and to place them in the authority of States, or the disposition of individuals? The demonstration has been made.

But it has been urged particularly by one class of our opponents, to which we are indebted for much of our success, that we are a man, and therefore he cannot be the black man, Africa, which is not his country. In some sense those blacks who have been born upon the soil, may claim this for their country; but I do not think that they can claim it for Egypt for the country, because during a long period of their lives they were captives in Egypt. So could all the Israelites born in the wilderness during the progress from Egypt to Canaan, claim Egypt for their country, but I do not think that they could in contemplating the beam "which guided the progress of that most remarkable of all the tribes of man, neither Egypt nor the wilderness, but Canaan was their home, and that is the beam, usually led. When, therefore, in a solitary instance, that Africa is a real home of the blacks, though they may have had a casual birth upon this continent? They were placed in the hands of lawless violence, and there they can remain happily in the farthest part of their original possession; and does it seem a dispensation of an all-wise Providence, which has brought them to this country, that they should be carried back to fulfil the holy purposes of Him whose ways are inscrutable, but always just. But this separation of the free people of color with their own consent from the country in which they have been born, and to which they are so much indebted for their good looks but for other and higher considerations. Africa had been long in barbarism, worshipping unknown and forbidden gods, without the light of civilization and without the knowledge of Christ. It was the first time that the people of color who first met in consultation for the organization of this Society, saw it, it was one great good, beside and beyond the fact that it would elevate the black's character to the character of a free man, and that it would bring them returning to Africa, would carry along with them all the blessings of our civilization, and all the benefits of the arts and civilization. Who does not late a deep interest in the principles of our holy religion, in sending Missionaries to convert the heathen?

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in consequence, no doubt, of the imprudent action of the subject matter. I had taken them to New Orleans as my slaves, and they were regarded as my slaves until they got out of the jurisdiction of the United States. I mention this single case as one. Alabama has a large number of slaves, and in consequence of the agitation of the question of slavery at the North, to pass rigorous laws against them. Most of the States, where the institution of slavery exists, have passed similar laws. Here, it appears like the Colonization Society—that of affording individuals, as well as States, who may have the control of free people of color and slaves who may desire to emigrate, the opportunity of gratifying their wishes, by their transportation to the shores of Africa.

On the subject of Slavery I shall not say more than I have done. This society, throughout the whole of its existence, has left that as a subject for the Legislature to regulate it, confining their operations exclusively to those free people of color whose voluntary desire it to be transported to the shores of Africa.

Gentlemen of the Society, you have placed me in a position which is not only disagreeable, but also painful. I came here this evening, I have stated, without a solitary note, and with very slight mental preparation to address you. I have been thrown into these remarks, loose and disjointed, by the necessity of a wish, which seemed irresistible, to say a word upon this subject. I have gone through with most, if not all, the topics, which I intended to treat, and I am compelled to leave you. I will beseech the abolitionists and all other persons who are desirous of the suppression of the slave trade, to beseech all those who hold the doctrines of opposite extreme, insisting upon the institution of slavery—I will beseech all men to look to the example of the Colonization Society, which commands itself to their fraternal emulation—I will beseech them to discard their prejudices, and ask them in the name of God, under whose smiling Providence I venture to appear before you, to be patient and wait, and will in future continue, to look and contemplate for a moment this experiment of twenty-five years' continuance, which, without the aid of me, without my efforts, without any aid except what has been bestowed upon me, has been carried on a war—not an aggressive, but a defensive war—and transported to Africa between 5,000 and 6,000 emigrants from the United States, and to look to the example of the Society which we have acquired three hundred and twenty miles of coast on the West of Africa and in every port of which the slave trade has been suppressed. And here I beg leave to say that the Colonization Society, which the United States have endeavored long to suppress the slave trade; if they would only lend a small portion of the means which they employ in keeping up naval forces for this purpose, to the Colonization Society, they would find it to be the most effectual mode of suppressing the slave trade that could be adopted. I believe no instrument in the hands of any government can be so effectual in breaking down the ancient system of the suppression of the slave trade on the Western coast of Africa. They would be so many sentinels, urged by all the sympathies of their race, by every consideration which affords motive of action, to arrest and suppress the trade.

Let us look after other motives, for the suppression of colonization. It has been said, and true said, that there is more immorality among the free people of color than among the slaves, and that the slaves would be benefited by the wisdom of the Colonization Society. The Colonization Society, by their opposition to colonization, have but riveted more firmly the chains of slavery. Then there is the object of civilization, and the extension of the arts, to be extended to the native Africans, and to be extended to the slave trade, and the propagation of Christianity. It is right, I ask, to assault a single one of all this combination of motives, and condemn the Colonization Society, and to condemn one of them? Take the whole cause, and all the purposes, declared from the first, persevered in throughout—take all, and judge of the Colonization Society by this standard. The slave trade, the extension of those arts, which may be torn from the many considerations which actuate it.

I should fail to express the feelings which my breast this evening, if I should neglect to congratulate the members of this Society upon the success of their efforts, and the success of a Republic has suddenly sprung into existence under their auspices—a free representative Republic, in form, modelled after our own cherished institutions; and although it has had its infancy, it is now entering upon a brilliant prospect for the future. It is a most appropriate subject of congratulation, whether I look back on the past, or forward to the consummation which the future promises.

It is impossible to express the feelings which I cast a view through the long vista of Time to anticipate two or three centuries hence, to regard its people spreading the light of Religion and its people spreading the principles of Religion, propagating the arts, and performing other duties and obligations as may devolve upon a great people. If we should bring far into view what this germ of Republicanism has been to the posterity of these colonies, how much the posterity of these colonies will be gladdened under its influence, and how much our own posterity will be entitled to rejoice at their prosperity, how would it stimulate yet to be a more ardent desire to persevere in the name of the cause. I shall leave you and this theatre of action, forever, but I trust that the spirit which led to the formation of this Society will survive me, and that the Colonization Society of ours, may be found asserting its sufficiency in co-operation with the Republic of Liberia, to transport that region every free person of color who may desire to emigrate, and to the transportation of the two races shall be at last commenced, and other generations shall have sprung to involve—as in closing, I now do—upon noble cause of Colonization, the blessing of God, and the blessing of heaven, be it extended to it.

Mr. CLAY here took his seat, amid thousand of applause.

Arrival of the Britannia.

FIFTEEN DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE!

BOSTON, Feb. 10.

The royal mail steamer Britannia arrived today, bringing dates to the 15th ult.

At Liverpool, Jan. 15, the Cotton market declined a cent per pound. Sales of the week amounted to 55,560 bales, closing with an advance of 1/4 cent. The market was quiet on Monday last, the 10th inst., presented novelty. Prices of best qualities remain unaltered.

The transactions in Foreign Goods continue the same as those of the preceding week.

FLOUR AND CORNEAL.—The market in Liverpool, during the present week, still continued depressed, both for British and foreign. The price of the best quality of flour being only 6s 6d per bbl. Indian Corneal has declined 2s per quarter and 1s per bbl below quotations of the last week, and transactions are dull.

Cotton in Provisions continue to be small. In cured Provisions both of home and foreign production the transactions are fair except in the London markets American and Pork, which are not lower in price as in an actual demand.

Abd-el-Kader has surrendered to the French and is now their prisoner.

The Queen of Spain is not expected to leave London until the 15th inst. failures in London and Glasgow, but none of moment have occurred.

In the present unsatisfactory state of affairs in British revenue, the improvement in business has been a great relief to the Treasury. The Bank of England has over \$12,000,000 of bullion in her vaults.

Switzerland has reduced her Army, and relative to Austria, compelled to pay immense sums for the expenses of the war. The complaints to the Diet of the conduct of Federal Army.

The allied powers still talk of an expedition against the Swiss and Italian States. We abide by the foreign news that Prince Adelaide of France is dead.

Mr. Scott has been elected U.S. Senator from the State of Ohio.

CONGRESS.

THURSDAY, JAN. 27.

SENATE.

The Senate was called to order at the usual hour and proceeded to the consideration of morning business, which was of an unimportant character.

Mr. Yule, from the committee on Naval Affairs, reported a bill for the relief of the widows and orphans of the crew of the *Big Somers*. Agreeably to notice, Mr. Benton asked and obtained leave to bring a bill, which was the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred to the committee on Military Affairs. It provided for sundry amendments to the articles of war relating to the practices before courts-martial.

Mr. Benton presented the petition of Mr. Belmont, asking for the appointment of a committee to examine into the relation of the liability of insurance companies in California.

Mr. Ashley's resolutions, enquiring where the public printing had been executed according to contract, were adopted.

On motion the Senate laid aside all other business and proceeded to the consideration of the Ten Regiment Bill.

Mr. Phelps spoke at some length in opposition to the bill, showing the expenditure already incurred by the war, and the vast public debt now existing, resulting in consequence of the further continuance.

HOUSE.

Mr. Barringer made sundry corrections to a bill in his reported speech.

The standing committees were called in order for their reports.

Mr. Rockwell, from the committee on Claims, reported the several resolutions providing for the settling of all claims since the 14th Congress. Upon this resolution considerable debate ensued.

Mr. Berringer, in committee of the whole, spoke at some length upon the President's message.

FRIDAY, JAN. 28.

SENATE.

Agreeably to previous notice, Mr. Rusk introduced a bill which was by consent read at several times, and referred to the committee on Military Affairs. It provided for the incorporation of the Texian Navy into that of the United States.

Mr. Pearce from the committee on the Library, reported a bill for the purchase of the House of Representatives.

On motion, the Senate laid aside the morning business, and proceeded to the consideration of the Ten Regiment Bill.

Mr. Cass expressed the hope that the debate upon the aforesaid resolution providing for the settling of all claims, would be of great value of argument.

Mr. Downs has the floor on this question to-morrow. (Mr. Downs was speaking as despatch closed.)

HOUSE.

Mr. Daniel moved to reconsider the vote upon the resolutions adopted yesterday, to provide for the indexing of all claims since the 14th Congress, which motion was laid on the table.

On the morning business, the House adjourned till to-morrow.

On the consideration of the private calendar. After considerable time spent therein, the committee rose.

The Speaker of the House and the House communications from the Executive Department, which were ordered to be printed.

On motion the House adjourned.

SATURDAY, JAN. 29.

SENATE not in session.

HOUSE.

Mr. Vinton, chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, reported a bill providing for the annual appropriations for the payment of the interest on the public debt, for the whole of the year, for a loan of \$100 millions, exclusive of five millions previously appropriated; to supply the deficiency of the Treasury for the fiscal year.

Mr. Vinton said he had supposed that the bill was the largest ever passed over the Treasury's Report, would exhibit the state of immediate action, on this bill, but he received a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury stating that the increased war expenditure had increased the bill to \$120 millions.

Mr. Ashman wished to call attention to the fact that while the Secretary was urging action upon the bill, the printer had informed the committee that the Secretary had several times taken the manuscript away for the purpose of making alterations.

Mr. McKay urged immediate action.

The bill was read a second time, and the House, on motion, resolved itself into committee of the whole on private bills, and after a time spent therein, the committee rose and reported a bill to relieve Mary Brown, of \$300,000, which was by giving aid, instead of \$300,000.

Adjourned.

MONDAY, JAN. 31.

SENATE.

The Senate was called to order, and proceeded to the consideration of the morning business.

The bill to increase Jethro Wood's plough patent, which was introduced over Thursday, was taken up and passed.

Sundry unimportant bills and resolutions were then presented, and appropriately referred to the committee on the subject.

On motion the morning business was laid aside, and the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the Ten Regiment Bill.

Mr. Downs being entitled to the floor, addressed the Senate at some length in favor of the bill.

HOUSE.

The Speaker called on the several State resolutions and petitions, was a number of them unimportant or of a local character, and presented.

Mr. Vinton explained the cause of the delay in printing the Secretary's report, which was not entirely satisfactory to all the members, and a long discussion ensued.

A communication was received from Walker, proposing to reduce the loan to two millions, which was read and ordered to be printed.

A resolution passed, after much debate, to close debate on the President's Message at one o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, FEB. 1.

SENATE.

The Senate was called to order and proceeded to the consideration of the morning business which was rather of an unimportant character.

The bill allowing foreign agents to satisfy claims for bounty on soldiers for military services rendered with war England, was taken up by Mr. Rusk, in order to make the bill more acceptable, offered an amendment, which was made a committee of the time of the day.

Mr. Rusk supported the amendment at some length and pointed out its advantages. After discussion the amendment was adopted and the bill passed.

Mr. Cass's resolutions, calling upon the President for information relative to the imposition of duties on goods shipped by the United States to Mexico, were adopted.

The Ten Regiment Bill was then taken up, and Mr. Rusk introduced the bill earnestly contending that it ought to pass. He replied the objections that had been urged against it, stating that immediate and prompt action was the soonest way to secure a permanent and honorable peace with Mexico.

Mr. Bell has the floor on the Ten Regiment Bill, for to-morrow.

On motion the House adjourned.

HOUSE.

On motion of Mr. Goggins the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the President's message to the appropriate committees.

Mr. Goggins replied to several demagogic speeches, and was very severe in his remarks upon the President's message.

Mr. Morse followed in defence of Mr. and the war.

The question, after some further discussion being on referring such a part of the message to the committee on the subject of the message.

KENTUCKY LEGISLATURE

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 26.

SENATE.

A message from the Governor, nominating certain militia officers was received, the bill requiring it to lie over one day, being suspended, and the bill confirmed.

Mr. Hardin, from the Judiciary committee reported a bill to amend an act further to protect the rights of married women, with amendment, which was concurred in, and, after some discussion, the bill was read a third time and passed.

Mr. Speed Smith, from the Committee on Internal Improvement, a bill to incorporate Lexington and Frankfort railroad Company, read and passed.

On motion, the Senate adjourned.

The proceedings of the House are unimportant.

THURSDAY, JAN. 27.

SENATE.

Mr. Hardin, from the Judiciary committee reported a bill granting a change of venue to Francis E. Eimer, who had been indicted for murder in the Adair Circuit Court; read and passed.

Also, a bill to protect parents and guardians—repels all laws making parents or guardians responsible for debts created by children at schools or colleges, without a parental order; read and passed.

A message was received from the House.

Mr. Wintersmith, informing the Senate that the Flag of the 2d Regiment of the Kentucky Infantry, captured at Fort Fisher, and now in the hands of the Federal Government, would be presented to the General Assembly, in the Hall of the House of Representatives, this day at 12 o'clock, and inviting the Senate to be present.

A bill from the House which offered a resolution accepting the invitation, which was adopted.

—Leave was granted to introduce the following bills:

—Mr. J. Speed Smith, a bill to incorporate the New Orleans and Ohio River Telegraph Company; referred.

On motion, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

On motion of Mr. Bush, a committee was appointed to invite the Governor to attend the presentation.

On motion of Mr. Barlow, a committee was appointed to inform the officers of the State to read the presentation.

At the hour of 12 o'clock, the House was attended by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Senators, and Officers of the State, with the members of the House, and the members of the memorable Buena Vista battle field, the same flag which bore on that field, was read in mourning for the late Capt. Chas. H. Venable, who fell at Fort Fisher, and the House sang the cheers of all.

A bill from the House, to increase the number of Justices of the Peace, Messrs. M. T. Towles, Smith, and Harris, then addressed the House in eloquent and appropriate speech. Resolutions suited to the occasion were unanimously adopted, and the House adjourned.

FRIDAY, JAN. 28.

SENATE.

A bill appropriating the dividends of the Bardonia and Louisville, and Bardonia and Green River turnpike roads, to the completion of the road between Bardonia and Glasgow, ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and passed.

Also, a bill to amend an act relating to non-taxing patent medicines, and requiring of the same to take out license; read a second time and re-committed to the committee.

Mr. Evans from the committee on education, a bill to incorporate the board of publication of the Cumberland Presbyterian church; read and passed.

Mr. Hobbs had the unanimous consent of the Senate to present the petition of sundry citizens of Louisville for the establishment of a Medical School in that city; also, the remonstrance of sundry citizens against the same, properly referred.

Mr. Evans granted to Mr. Hobbs—a bill to incorporate the Grand Division of the State Temperance; referred.

Also, a bill providing for running and marking poles between Jefferson and Scott counties; referred.

Also, a bill to incorporate the missionary society of the Methodist Episcopal Church so referred.

Resolution from the Senate providing for the election of Public Officers on the 1st day of February, with an amendment from the House substituting the 8th of February for the amendment passed.

Resolution instructing the Librarian to purchase twenty copies of Collins' History of Kentucky, for the Public Library; adopted.

HOUSE.

Mr. Speed Smith—Judiciary—a bill to incorporate the Cave Hill cemetery, of Louisville; read and passed.

Mr. Smith, Gen. Combs, and Mr. Wintersmith, then offered resolutions complimentary to Col. A. Ormsby's and Marshall's regiments, and a resolution asking the Governor, who is absent, and another for a slight extension, intended by his omission to name these two regiments.

SATURDAY, JAN. 29.

SENATE.

Mr. Hobbs reported a bill to incorporate the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which was read a second time, and referred to the Judiciary committee.

Also, a bill to incorporate the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance of Kentucky; read a second time, and referred to the Judiciary committee.

Also, a bill to run and mark part of the line between the counties of Jefferson and Simpson; read and passed.

Mr. Boyd, from the committee on Education, a bill to amend the charter of the Chenoweth run in Jefferson county; read and passed.

Mr. Hobbs had the unanimous consent of the Senate to present the petition of sundry citizens of Louisville, asking the Governor to amend to the road laws of the said county, and properly referred.

Preamble and resolutions from the Legislature in relation to the late Gen. John Callahan, late Governor of Kentucky, were read and adopted.

HOUSE.

The following resolution was adopted: Resolved, That the 2d Auditor be required to furnish to this House, a tabular statement of the revenue in this State, in each year from 1840 to 1847 inclusive.

Mr. Short brought in a bill to levy a sales tax on old batchelors over thirty, the proceeds to be applied for the support of indigent widows and orphans, and another for a purpose; referred.

Mr. S. Young offered the following, which was adopted.

Resolved, That the committee on the Judiciary be and are hereby authorized to enquire into the expediency and propriety of passing an act authorizing the Governor of the State, at discretion, to commute the punishment of imprisonment in the jail and penitentiary, for any person who has been convicted of the moral life of such persons as may hereafter be convicted of any capital offence under the laws of this Commonwealth, and that such persons shall embrace the slave, free negro and mulatto, as well as the free white population of this State, and that they report by bill or otherwise.

MONDAY, JAN. 31.

SENATE.

Mr. Hobbs had the unanimous consent of the Senate to present the remonstrance of sundry citizens of Louisville, against the establishment of a Medical School in that city; approved and referred.

The bill to divide the State into Senate Districts, and apportion the Representatives to the several counties, which was the special order this day, was taken up, when,

On motion of Mr. Slaughter, its further consideration was postponed until Wednesday the 9th of February.

HOUSE.

A bill for the benefit of Ministers of the Gospel, allowing them to pass through the State without paying any tax; was adopted.

Also, a bill to amend the law in relation to proceedings in criminal cases—allowing the attorney for the Commonwealth to reject perjury by six jurors, were read, and after a lengthy debate, was passed by vote of 74 to 9.

Mr. Wintersmith moved to reconvene the session on Tuesday.

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